

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Rumania
SUBJECT Extent of Rumanian Oil Reserves

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. Estimates of the Rumanian Geological Institute show that Rumanian oil reserves, in the areas now being exploited, are now of relatively small import. This is due to the fact that since 1857, a total of 180,000,000 tons of oil have been extracted. On the other hand, the Institute's reports show that there are still 100,000,000 tons of oil in the southern part of Moldavia, where there has been much less exploitation thus far. This was due to the higher price of getting the Moldavian oil out of the ground. Each sounding reaches a smaller quantity of oil here and drilling is much more difficult. Hence extraction is more expensive.
2. Rumanian annual extraction reached its maximum (8,700,000 tons) in 1936. Since that date, it has fallen continuously. This was especially true after the Soviet forces came in. At this time Rumania was cut off from the West and unable to import the machinery necessary for complete operation. The Czechoslovak machinery promised by the Soviets did not get there promptly. Finally, it was necessary to commandeer the Rumanian factories at Bucharest (23 August), at Ploesti (1 May), and the Banat (Resita), to make oil drilling machinery. But these plants were not equipped for the kind of production needed. Neither did they have the necessary steel supply. Naturally, they turned out a very inferior product.
3. In spite of this, however, production went from 3,810,000 tons in 1947 to 4,000,000 in 1950 and to 4,400,000 in 1951. During 1951 there were 2,100 exploratory drillings. In 1952, 92 additional drills were put to work. For 1953, 480 new drills have been ordered to avoid deficient oil production. The five year plan provides a Rumanian annual production of 10,000,000 tons, though specialists who know the realities of the situation regard this figure as extravagant.

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4. Rumanian Communists have no choice but to obey Moscow's orders. These orders are always for greater and greater production in all regions and especially in Moldavia. Since the demand is for greater production, no matter what the cost, Rumania is scraping the bottom of the oil deposits, no matter how difficult the extraction may be, to satisfy her Soviet patrons.
5. Great things are expected from the soundings at Brunache (sic) which are expected to reveal new deposits shortly. New wells are to be drilled there with speed. The Soviet engineer, Ivan Vashinsky, has gone to Moldavia at the head of a commission of experts, to oversee the work. Nobody, however, thinks that, even with all this effort, the Soviet demands can really be met.

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